

Committee on Community Safety – Focus Group for Senior Residents
August 20, 2009 Summary
Audiotape and Minutes of the meeting is available at Town Clerk's Office

1. Call to order: 4:04 pm

Present: Dave Tompkins

Also attending: Dave Nagel, Town Council Liaison, Myra Cohen, Town Council,
Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services

2. Committee PowerPoint Presentation

- Dave Tompkins facilitated the focus group with 17 senior residents. He gave an overview using the revised PowerPoint Presentation to describe the purpose of. Committee, work done by the previous Joint Committee and the Community Asset Building model. He also commented that the Committee is planning to make presentations to other groups such as PACs, PTOs and PTAs.

3. Focus Group Discussion and Suggestions

- Information through the media about what is going on in town is minimal and not always reliable.
- Many seniors do not use computers and do not have access to much information about what is happening with town departments or available services.
- There is difficulty identifying a clear definition of safety as people have different views of what safety is.
- Concern about motels on Berlin Turnpike.
- Concern about cell phone use while driving.
- Survey other populations besides youth.
- What about a citizen survey similar to what was done in years past?
- Brochures and/or information about safety and distribute through the Library.
- Everyone has to help educate and be observant regarding community safety.
- Use Newington Life to provide information to residents i.e. a town column featuring reports from different departments, information on what the town is doing regarding safety, safety tips for residents and the opportunity for residents to ask questions and receive answers through the newspaper and town website.
- Contact the Committee through the Director of Human Services
- AARP is interested in having a presentation at their January meeting.

4. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm



Respectfully Submitted: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services
Next Meeting September 17, 2009 7pm Helen Nelson Room